

REMARKS

Claims 18-25 are now presented for examination, having been added in place of Claims 1-17, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 18, 20, 22 and 24 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0038461 (Murakami et al.). The newly added claims are believed to be allowable over that document, and over all the prior art of record, for at least the following reasons.

As explained in the specification, systems that employ proxy printing are well known. Because such systems typically send a proxy-print job to the end of the queue at the printer where the proxy job is to be printed, however, it can happen that the proxy print job is actually performed later than if the print job had been retained at the original printer. If the system were constructed so as to cause a proxy print job to be executed immediately upon transmission to the proxy printer, however, other unintended and undesirable effects on the order in which various print jobs are completed, may be caused. The present invention is intended to provide techniques for achieving proxy printing, without these drawbacks.^{1/}

Independent Claim 18 is directed to a print control apparatus that comprises an executing unit, adapted to execute printing of a job having a first priority in preference to another job, having a second priority that is lower than the first priority. The apparatus also comprises a

^{1/} It is of course to be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details of this or any other particular embodiment that may be referred to.

changing unit, adapted to detect an error in a first printer, and to change a proxy printing job for which printing is to be executed in a second printer in place of the first printer such that the proxy printing job has a higher priority than other jobs. According to Claim 18, the changing unit moves the proxy printing job from an original queue to a queue provided for the second printer and changes the proxy printing job to have the higher priority.

Murakami relates to a system in which the priority levels of print jobs are increased as the elapsed time of the jobs becomes longer, and printing the job(s) based on the priority level(s). In addition, an individual terminal can be assigned a terminal-status level, and printing priority can be determined taking into account both the job priority, and the status level of the terminal from which the job originated. Applicant submits, however, that nothing has been found in *Murakami* that would teach or suggest the claimed changing unit, which moves a job for proxy printing from an original queue to a second queue that is provided for the proxy printer, and changes that job to have higher priority. For at least this reason, Applicant believes that Claim 18 is allowable over *Murakami*.

Independent Claims 20 and 22 are method and program claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 18; additionally, independent Claim 24 includes the same features as are recited in Claim 18. Accordingly, all these claims are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 18.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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